

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 EURE-00 CU-04 /137 W

----- 001330

P R 171325Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7073

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 0109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, FI, XG, ILO

SUBJ: EUROPEAN REGIONAL ILO CONFERENCE AND
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS' MEETING

REF: STOCKHOLM 123 (NOTAL)

PASS LABOR AND COMMERCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH FINNS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT EITHER ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE OR EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS MEETING WILL PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS BOTH GATHERINGS, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER, HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION IN THE LAST TEN DAYS. FINNISH LABOR LEADERS ARE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT TRADE UNION MEETING, WHICH THEY HAVE HELPED BRING ABOUT, NOT FALL ON ITS FACE BUT AT LEAST POINT THE WAY TOWARD INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS AND PERHAPS BEING DEFINING A ROLE FOR EUROPEAN LABOR IN THE DETENTE PROCESS. FINLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOR MEETING IS LARGELY IN HANDS OF ITS NEW WORKER DELEGATE, KARI TAPIOLA, AN AMBITIOUS YOUNG SOCIAL DEMOCRAT TO WHOM THE DOMESTICALLY-PREOCCUPIED FINNISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (SAK) CHAIRMAN HAMALAINEN HAS LARGELY CONSIGNED THE SAK'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. FINNISH DELEGATION TO ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IS COMPOSED MOSTLY OF FAMILIAR FACES. FOR THE GOVERNMENT THE PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN WILL BE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MP (LEFT-WING AND ANTI-EEC) JACOB SODERMAN, WHOSE DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA WAS DELAYED BY EXTENDED SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. SODERMAN'S ALTERNATE IS MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIAL LAURI KORPELAINE. FOR THE EMPLOYERS INGVAR S. MELIN IS THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE ASSISTED BY JAAKKO KOSKIMIES. BOTH ARE CLOSE TO EMBASSY. FINNISH WORKERS HAVE A NEW DELEGATE, SAK INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI TAPIOLA, WHO WAS IVP GRANTEE LAST CONFIDENTIAL

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SUMMER. WORKER ADVISORS ARE SAK ECONOMIC RESEARCH SECRETARY ANTERO TUOMINEN (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) AND METALWORKERS UNION SOCIAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY PAAVO HYVONEN (COMMUNIST). TUOMINEN VISITED US THREE YEARS AGO ON EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT. ALSO IN GENEVA FOR ENTIRE TWO WEEKS IS AARNE VALIKANGAS, THE PRO-AMERICAN MANAGING DIRECTOR OF FINNISH WHITE COLLAR UNIONS' FEDERATION (TVK).

3. JOINING THIS LIST FOR THE WEEKEND TRADE UNION MEETING WILL BE SAK CHAIRMAN NIILLO HAMALAINEN AND SAK SECRETARY SIMO ELOMAA (COMMUNIST) AS WELL AS TVK CHAIRMAN OSO LAAKSO.

4. IN RECENT MONTHS HANDLING OF SAK'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HAS DEVOLVED INCREASINGLY ON TAPIOLA, WHO IS AN AMBITIOUS YOUNG SOCIAL DEMOCRAT CLOSE TO THE PARTY'S LEFT-WING AND ALSO A PROTEGE OF PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA. SEVERAL NON-SOCIALISTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US (WHICH WE SHARE) THAT TAPIOLA MAY BE TO ANXIOUS TO ACT AS BROKER FOR SOVIETS. IT WAS IMPLIED HE MIGHT MAKE A BID TO CHAIR THE JANUARY 19 MEETING OR SEEK IN SOME OTHER WAY TO MAKE VISIBLE CONTRIBUTION. ALTHOUGH TAPIOLA TOLD LABATT BEFORE DEPARTURE THAT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE COULD COME FROM SUCH BRIEF MEETING HE HOPED IT WOULD PAVE WAY FOR BROADENING OF LABOR CONTACTS IN EUROPE. THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE CREDIT FOR FURTHERING EAST-WEST DETENTE IF TRADE UNION LEADERS CAN AGREE ON TANGIBLE FOLLOW-ON, PARTICULARLY IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON A FULL-SCALE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS WHICH THE FINNS WOULD LIKE TO SEE TAKE PLACE IN HELSINKI.

5. IN A TV INTERVIEW JANUARY 14 HAMALAINEN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SAK HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY BEEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE HOST TO SUCH A MEETING, "HOPES" THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A ROLE HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADE UNION LEADERS. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS JANUARY 16, HOWEVER, HAMALAINEN ADMITTED THAT CHANCES FOR A EUROPEAN

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TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE ARE EXCEEDINGLY SLIM. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT HIS TV COMMENT THAT FAILURE OF THE GENEVA TRADE UNION MEETING WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE CSCE NEGOTIATIONS WAS A "WORST-CASE" HYPOTHESIS; "A TOTAL FAILURE IN GENEVA COULD NOT FAIL TO AFFECT THE CSCE." HE BASED HIS FEELING ON THE DUAL ROLES THAT EASTERN TRADE UNION LEADERS SUCH AS SHELEPIN AND GAZPAR HAVE IN THEIR COUNTRIES' POLITICAL STRUCTURES, ALTHOUGH HE SAID NEITHER HAD EXPRESSLY LINKED THE TRADE UNION MEETING AND THE CSCE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM.

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-20 NSC-10

L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 CU-04 USIA-15 EURE-00 /137 W

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P R 171325Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7074

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 117

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 0109

6. OLD PRO HAMALAINEN (WHO IS HANDICAPPED IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS BECAUSE HE SPEAKS ONLY FINNISH) MAY TEMPER SOME OF TAPIOLA'S YOUTHFUL ZEAL WHEN HE ARRIVES IN GENEVA. WE HAD THE IMPRESSION, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH US, HOWEVER, THAT HAMALAINEN'S MIND IS MUCH MORE ON FINLAND'S CURRENT ROUND OF INTENSIVE INCOME POLICY NEGOTIATIONS THAN ON THE UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING INCREMENTS OF DETENTE IN THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE TOLD US HE HAS BEEN SAK CHAIRMAN LONG ENOUGH AND WILL LEAVE TO ASSUME "OTHER DUTIES" AS SOON AS THE INCOMES SETTLEMENT IS IN HARBOR. (HE HAS MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS IN THE PAST AND BEEN PERSUADED TO STAY ON, BUT THE AIR OF FINALITY WITH WHICH HE CONVEYED THE INFORMATION INDICATES IT MAY ACTUALLY COME TO PASS THIS SPRING).

7. COMMENT: BEYOND THE AMBITIONS OF A YOUTHFUL POLITICIAN ON THE MAKE, THERE IS IN FINLAND (AS IN SWEDEN -- REFTEL) A WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT THE TIME FOR A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING HAS ARRIVED. SINCE THE FINNS WERE IN THE VANGUARD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CSCE, AND ALSO REFER TO THE 1971 SAK CONGRESS AS THE CATALYST FOR THE CURRENT MEETING, THEY ARE ANXIOUS THAT IT AT LEAST CONFIRM THAT THE TRADE UNIONS TOO ARE INVOLVED IN THE DETENTE PROCESS AND MAKE A BEGINNING IN DEFINING THEIR ROLE THEREIN. THE FINNISH TRADE UNIONISTS ALSO FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE PROFITABLE AREAS FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST DESPITE OBVIOUS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES -- AREAS SUCH AS WORK SAFETY, JOB ENRICHMENT, AND ROLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRY.
WHITE

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TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, FI, XG, ILO
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